

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 62

Senate Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 27, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 14, Battin. The Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center.

This measure would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center, located at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County, as a leader in homeland security training.

WHEREAS, The Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center (BCTC) was established in 1996, and is the first operational joint public safety training center in California, located on 375 acres adjacent to March Air Reserve Base in Central Riverside County, the center of the Inland Empire and home to the first Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission peace officer training academy; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC's current training facilities include over 100,000 square feet of classroom and office space, onsite food and lodging facilities, an emergency dispatch and communications center, a physical training complex, and interactive driving and force simulators; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC is fully operational and has been providing public safety training for over eight years, including advanced training to over 6,000 first responders from federal, state, county, and municipal governments as well as military and specialized personnel; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC has an approved Phased Master Plan complete with an approved Environmental Impact Report for the expansion of its existing campus into an area of undeveloped land which provides a natural buffer from civilian uses; and

WHEREAS, Construction is underway for a multimillion dollar Force Continuum Center, and the approved Master Plan includes training complexes for underwater dive, rescue and recovery, canine training, emergency driver training, fire rescue, corrections training, equine training, and scenario training for large scale incidents like train derailment and aircraft disasters; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC has established a series of interrelated and joint-use training partnerships with adjacent county agencies, to include the Sheriffs' Offices of San Bernardino, Orange, and San Diego Counties, that provide specialized training in a number of key security missions; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC has a strong working relationship with each branch of the Armed Forces, including the guard and reserve components. The BCTC has been utilized as a scenario village and training center by the Department of the Navy-United States Marine Corps. This training provided for timely and tailor-made combat training of our Armed Forces deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC is the home of Riverside Community College and Southern Illinois University, providing fully accredited institutions of higher learning to staff and students; and

WHEREAS, Riverside Community College currently operates a state-of-the-art facility at the BCTC for the training of public safety and criminal justice professionals, including the Basic Law Enforcement Academy, Fire Technology Academy, Emergency Dispatcher Academy, Probation Officer Academy, and Correctional Officer Academy; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC and March Hospital are well located for the training of first responder personnel to terrorist attacks and other public disasters; and

WHEREAS, This training of first responder personnel benefits from convenient access to a fully equipped medical facility, a central location for the staging of interagency drills and public emergency response and training scenarios, advanced training facilities that meet time-critical needs and continuing education requirements, and onsite health professionals and educators; and

WHEREAS, These amenities provide the federal and state government the unique opportunity to implement training mandates with minimal cost; and

WHEREAS, The BCTC, and its many active assets and surrounding training centers within the Inland Empire, can partner with the California Office of Emergency Services, the State Office of Homeland Security, and the United States Department of Homeland Security's Office of Domestic Preparedness, to receive state-directed federal funding available for national scope training initiatives that prepare the nation to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the President and the Congress of the United States to recognize the Ben Clark Public Safety Training Center, located at March Air Reserve Base in Riverside County, as a leader in homeland security training throughout southern California; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the United States Office of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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